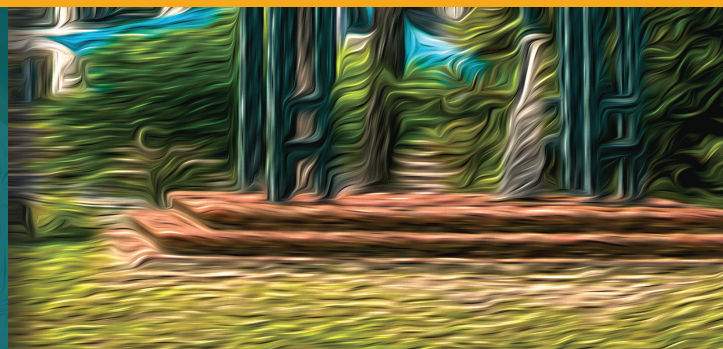




Seahawk Stories

70 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE





dirt.

One of the few things
older than we are.

At StarNews Media, we love to dig. Over the past 150 years, our journalists have worked tirelessly to investigate and report on issues that matter to Southeastern North Carolina. Along the way we've also joined with the business community to plant seeds for future growth, helping local proprietors get their messages to the masses. As we continue to grow and change with the region we love, we will always be proud that our roots in this community run deep.





DEAR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS:

In partnership with the StarNews, it is with great pleasure that we bring you this special keepsake of our university's 70th anniversary.

We are so happy to have this opportunity to share the stories of just a few Seahawks who have made UNCW what it is, then and now.

I say "just a few" because it would be impossible to capture within these pages even a fraction of the dedication, achievements, and heart that so many of our students, alumni, supporters, and employees

have illustrated through the years. We are so very fortunate to have so many inspiring stories to tell.

Speaking of inspiring, we hope the stories you're about to read will inspire you to visit our campus, be it for a cultural or athletics event, to attend a public lecture from the world-class academics and leaders we attract, or to simply enjoy our beautiful space and absorb some of the incredible energy of our students, faculty, and staff. We want to welcome and thank you – our neighbors, partners, and supporters – as we embark upon our next 70 years.

Go Seahawks!



FIGHTING UNEMPLOYMENT WITH ENTREPRENEURSHIP

› By Venita Jenkins

Shiang-ling Bissonnette '19 feels confident that obtaining a bachelor's degree in marketing strategy is the key to taking her business to the next level.

Bissonnette co-owns The Hive & Co. in Wilmington, a marketing and design agency she launched in 2015 with Miranda Perales, a fellow military spouse. The women began the company to assist other military spouses in starting and growing their own businesses.

"I like the nitty gritty of consumer psychology and behavioral economics.

The marketing strategies degree was the closest thing I could do," Bissonnette said. "I already have my company. Now I am going to tap the nail on the head and make sure that I have all the information I need to be successful, make more connections and grow."

Bissonnette transferred to UNCW after earning an associate's degree from Cape Fear Community College. As a non-traditional student, Bissonnette wasn't certain if UNCW was the place for her. But after speaking with staff at UNCW's Office of Military Affairs, she learned about resources the university offers to help her reach her goals.

"UNCW was changing the perception of the everyday student," she said. "That excited me."

When Bissonnette is not studying,

she serves as an ambassador of the Milspo Project, a network of military spouses that provides support and resources to help address the unemployment and underemployment of military spouses.

"I have plenty of friends who have to leave wonderful jobs every two years because their spouse is being transferred to another base, and then struggle to find a new company in the new city they are in," Bissonnette said. "When I learned about Milspo Project and the mission to empower military spouses in the pursuit of entrepreneurship as an alternative, I was excited to be involved."

Bissonnette also volunteers with Raising Raiders, an organization dedicated to serving marines, sailors and families of Marine Special Operations Command. "Our company is getting larger, and our emphasis on social responsibility has grown, so now we volunteer our services to organizations instead of just hours," she said. "I volunteer because I truly believe in the idea that a strong community is everything."

Bissonnette juggles the roles of mother, entrepreneur, student and even farmer. After she and her husband purchased a new house this spring, she started a small farm to raise animals for her family's food.

"It was an endeavor that I probably should not have started until my husband got back from deployment," she said with a laugh. "But it was just one of the many dreams I have. I'm going to try to do everything."

**"I LIKE
THE NITTY
GRITTY OF
CONSUMER
PSYCHOLOGY
AND
BEHAVIORAL
ECONOMICS."**





Tony Rivenbark: No Waiting in the Wings for This Seahawk

› By Tricia Vance

Tony Rivenbark's passion for theater is well-known in Wilmington, where he has appeared in and directed countless productions. The 1970 UNCW graduate began practicing his craft at the university, where he majored in history but spent most of his free time working in stage productions under the guidance of the late Doug Swink, founder of the theatre department.

His full-time job is serving as executive director of Thalian Hall Center for the Performing Arts, but Rivenbark remains active in local theater. His most recent play, *The Sunshine Boys*, was a nod to Swink, his mentor and friend. "Doug's last play, at almost 80, was *The Sunshine Boys*," Rivenbark said.

The young Duplin County native arrived at Wilmington College back in 1966 planning to earn a law degree. The nearly new South College Road campus had only a handful of buildings back then. "There were no dorms, so nobody lived

on campus," Rivenbark said. There was also no theater. Kenan Auditorium was completed the year he graduated.

A lecture room in Hoggard Hall served as a theater after the department moved from the Isaac Bear Building at New Hanover High School. "They backed a pickup truck next to a large window – that was stage left," he said. "That was the only theater until Kenan Auditorium was built."

Growing up in Warsaw, Rivenbark didn't have the advantage of a theater program at his high school, but seeing several Broadway shows and productions at East Carolina University sparked his interest in the stage. When it came time to apply to college, his first choice was UNC-Chapel Hill, with UNCW as his only backup.

"But then I thought, since I was from a small town, maybe I ought to go to Wilmington so I wouldn't get swallowed up," he said. He turned down Chapel Hill in favor of UNCW, and he has no doubt it was the right decision.

"I wouldn't have gone anywhere else," he said. "I loved my four years at UNCW."

Rivenbark immersed himself in theater at Wilmington College, then enrolled at UNC-CH to pursue graduate studies in

theater. From there, his career took him to New York, then back home to Duplin County where he directed *The Liberty Cart*, an outdoor drama about the Kenan family, for two years before returning to Wilmington.

During Rivenbark's years at UNCW, it was customary for performances to include both university and community members. Today, UNCW students, faculty, staff and alumni are frequently part of the diverse community theater presentations around the Cape Fear region. Likewise, Rivenbark still has close ties to UNCW as it celebrates its 70th anniversary.

Looking back on his time at UNCW, Rivenbark, who served as emcee for a 50th anniversary event, would remind students looking at their college choices to consider more than the name.

"I got a great education at UNCW," he said. "It's not about the school. It's about the quality of the people and what you are learning."

**"IT'S NOT
ABOUT THE
SCHOOL.
IT'S ABOUT
THE
QUALITY OF
THE PEOPLE
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YOU ARE
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2017-18 WOMEN'S BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	DAY	OPPONENT	TIME	DATE	DAY	OPPONENT	TIME
OCT. 29	SUN	GREENSBORO COLLEGE	2 P.M.	JAN. 21	SUN	JAMES MADISON*	2 P.M.
NOV. 12	SUN	PEMBROKE	2 P.M.	JAN. 28	SUN	AT DELAWARE	1 P.M.
NOV. 15	WED	EAST CAROLINA	7 P.M.	FEB. 2	FRI	AT NORTHEASTERN*	7 P.M.
NOV. 18	SAT	AT COASTAL CAROLINA	2 P.M.	FEB. 4	SUN	AT HOFSTRA*	1 P.M.
NOV. 22	WED	AT NORTH CAROLINA	2 P.M.	FEB. 9	FRI	CHARLESTON*	7 P.M.
NOV. 24	FRI	CATAWBA	4 P.M.	FEB. 11	SUN	DREXEL*	2 P.M.
NOV. 26	SUN	AT FURMAN	2 P.M.	FEB. 16	FRI	AT WILLIAM & MARY*	7 P.M.
NOV. 29	WED	VCU	7 P.M.	FEB. 18	SUN	AT JAMES MADISON*	2 P.M.
DEC. 3	SUN	NC CENTRAL	2 P.M.	FEB. 23	FRI	AT CHARLESTON*	11:30 A.M.
DEC. 9	SAT	AT PITTSBURGH	1 P.M.	MAR. 1	THU	TOWSON*	7 P.M.
DEC. 16	SAT	AT WOFFORD	7 P.M.	MAR. 3	SAT	ELON*	2 P.M.
DEC. 21	THU	GEORGIA STATE	1 P.M.	MAR. 7-10 CAA TOURNAMENT - Philadelphia, PA			
DEC. 29	FRI	AT ELON*	7 P.M.				
DEC. 31	SUN	WILLIAM & MARY*	2 P.M.				
JAN. 5	FRI	NORTHEASTERN*	11:30 A.M.				
JAN. 7	SUN	HOFSTRA*	1 P.M.				
JAN. 12	FRI	AT TOWSON*	7 P.M.				
JAN. 14	SUN	AT DREXEL*	2 P.M.				
JAN. 19	FRI	DELAWARE*	7 P.M.				



HOME GAMES played at Trask Coliseum • *CAA Opponent • Dates & Times Subject to Change • All Times Eastern



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2017-18 MEN'S BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	DAY	OPPONENT	TIME	DATE	DAY	OPPONENT	TIME
Savannah Invitational - Wilmington, NC				JAN. 18	THU	AT CHARLESTON*	7 P.M.
NOV. 11	SAT	NC WESLEYAN	7 P.M.	JAN. 20	SAT	TOWSON*	7 P.M.
NOV. 14	TUE	AT DAVIDSON	7 P.M.	JAN. 25	THU	JAMES MADISON*	7 P.M.
NOV. 18	SAT	CAMPBELL	7 P.M.	JAN. 27	SAT	WILLIAM & MARY*	7 P.M.
Savannah Invitational - Savannah, GA				FEB. 1	THU	AT HOFSTRA*	7 P.M.
NOV. 24	FRI	LOYOLA	5 P.M.	FEB. 3	SAT	AT NORTHEASTERN*	4 P.M.
NOV. 25	SAT	VALPARAISO	7:30 P.M.	FEB. 8	THU	AT JAMES MADISON*	7 P.M.
NOV. 30	THU	AT EAST CAROLINA	8 P.M.	FEB. 10	SAT	HOFSTRA* HOMECOMING	7 P.M.
DEC. 10	SUN	AT LSU	5 P.M.	FEB. 15	THU	ELON*	7 P.M.
DEC. 13	WED	AT UNC GREENSBORO	7 P.M.	FEB. 17	SAT	CHARLESTON* SENIOR NIGHT	7 P.M.
DEC. 17	SUN	FURMAN	2 P.M.	FEB. 22	THU	AT WILLIAM & MARY*	7 P.M.
WestStar Bank Don Haskins Sun Bowl Invitational - El Paso, TX				FEB. 24	SAT	AT DREXEL*	4 P.M.
DEC. 21	THU	NORTH DAKOTA STATE	7 P.M.	MAR. 2-5 CAA TOURNAMENT - Charleston, SC			
DEC. 22	FRI	UTEP/HOWARD	7 P.M./9 P.M.				
DEC. 28	THU	GREENSBORO COLLEGE	7 P.M.				
DEC. 30	SAT	DELAWARE*	7 P.M.				
JAN. 2	TUE	DREXEL*	7 P.M.				
JAN. 5	FRI	AT TOWSON*	7 P.M.				
JAN. 7	SUN	AT DELAWARE*	2 P.M.				
JAN. 11	THU	AT ELON*	7 P.M.				
JAN. 13	SAT	NORTHEASTERN*	7 P.M.				



HOME GAMES played at Trask Coliseum • *CAA Opponent • Dates & Times Subject to Change • All Times Eastern

UNCW's William McLellan Nominated for 2018 Indianapolis Prize

› By Gena Guthrie

UNCW research associate William McLellan is a nominee for the 2018 Indianapolis Prize, the world's leading award for animal conservation.

McLellan is a marine mammalogist and an expert in cetacean necropsy focusing on large whales. He is internationally recognized for his work to protect right whales, which contributed to U.S. regulations that reduced vessel speeds approaching ports and decreased the chance of a vessel strike.

McLellan serves on the board of the North Atlantic Right Whale Consortium and sits on five Take Reduction Teams in the Atlantic that work to reduce marine mammal bycatch in commercial fisheries.

The Indianapolis Zoo awards the Indianapolis Prize to animal conservationists for their efforts to preserve endangered species and develop conservation techniques and practices. Thirty-two conservationists are being recognized this year with nominations; five finalists will each receive \$10,000 and the winner will receive a \$250,000 cash award, as well as the Lilly Medal. Eli Lilly and Company Foundation funds the program.

"It is an honor to be recognized with this nomination," said McLellan. "I hope that this recognition will be helpful to the cause of recovering whale species around the world, and especially the critically endangered north Atlantic right whale."

McLellan joined UNCW's Department of Biology and Marine Biology in 1995. He co-coordinates the Marine Mammal Program with Dr. Ann Pabst and is the North Carolina State Stranding Coordinator. McLellan is a member of the UNCW Office of Research Administration's Five Million Dollar Club, which honors researchers who have received more than \$5 million dollars in sponsored funding. He has co-authored over 100 scientific articles published in peer-reviewed journals.



Ann Pabst (l) and Bill McLellan

MELINDA ANDERSON: SUPPORTING STUDENTS IN THEIR ACADEMIC JOURNEY

› By Venita Jenkins

Melinda Anderson was raised to believe in the power of education.

That belief inspired her to pursue a career helping students succeed.

"I fell in love with the idea of supporting students and quickly got to work to determine what area of higher education would suit me best," said Anderson, associate dean of undergraduate studies and director of University College. "I like to say that I was born in student affairs and raised in academic affairs."

Over the years, Anderson has worked in several areas that support students in reaching their educational and professional goals. Before joining UNCW in August 2015, she was the director of pre-health and pre-law advising at Virginia Commonwealth University and was responsible for supporting academic advising and program support for all students interested in pursuing professional programs. She also served as an associate director of academic advising at the College of William & Mary.

Anderson says she was attracted to UNCW because of its student-centered focus and impressed by the university's commitment to a robust undergraduate education.

"Students are the heart of any institution, and I felt that this was the case here," she said. "The University College model is not found in many colleges or universities and for UNCW to invest in a full intake model to support freshmen and sophomores

until they declared their major – I was impressed!"

In her role, Anderson is involved in student success initiatives focused on retention, advising and academic support. One initiative she plans to fully implement is a new mentoring program called Seahawk LEADS, a program that connects faculty and staff with students who are looking for extra support during their first year of school. A pilot program was launched in the spring.

"Student success is my passion," she said. "I am excited about having the opportunity to influence the way the university supports student success. I have an opportunity to connect with students, staff, faculty and families to build networks, programs and events that are designed to help students persist and complete their educational goals. I am honored to support students in their academic journey here at UNCW."

Philanthropic gifts to the University College support students as they explore undergraduate curriculum and career paths, prepare to declare an appropriate major, and succeed in their transition to UNCW.

**"STUDENTS
ARE THE
HEART
OF ANY
INSTITUTION"**



Basketball, Belk and Bonds of Love

› By Tricia Vance

Ken Bishop '57 arrived in Wilmington between Christmas and New Year's Eve 1954. Fresh out of the Army, he came to town with a high school buddy to talk with Coach Bill Brooks about a basketball scholarship to Wilmington College. He got the scholarship and enrolled the next semester. Sixty years later, the team's former superstar center still supports the Seahawk basketball program.

Back then, Wilmington College was a two-year school housed in the Isaac Bear Building at New Hanover High School, and the Seahawks played at Brogden Hall.

"The college was just really getting started then," he recalled. "The classes were small, and everybody knew everybody. Everyone followed basketball."

The scholarship paid for books and tuition, and Coach Brooks helped the young student-athlete find work to support himself. But Brooks, who spent 40 years as athletic director at UNCW, was more than a coach to Bishop. He was a mentor.

"Bill Brooks got a part-time job for me at Belk Beery [the local Belk store], and I was able to make it on my own," said Bishop, whose academic concentration at Wilmington College was merchandising. That introduction led to a lifetime career with the Belk company. He retired in 1992 as vice president and general manager of the store at Independence Mall.

Bishop still has the letter he read during a 1991 tribute to Brooks in which he thanked the coach for help on the court and in life: "I will always remember that you had a part in what successes I have achieved as a person, and I will always be grateful for the time and effort you gave to me."

"Who really got me going, that was him," added Bishop, a longtime member of the Seahawk Club and a former member of its board of directors.

His main inspiration in life, however, is his wife of nearly 62 years, Dorothy (affectionately known as Dot).

During basketball season, the team

ate dinner at a local boarding house. "That's where I met Dot," Bishop said. His future wife was staying there while working for a local ear, nose and throat specialist. "We courted and then were married at First Presbyterian Church."

Dot Bishop served on the UNCW Nurse Advocate Board and is a volunteer at New Hanover Regional Medical Center.

As he credits Brooks for giving him a good start, Bishop counts his wife as a full partner in his successes.

"Dot was a part of all of this," he said. "She was with me every step of the way."

"THE CLASSES WERE SMALL, AND EVERYBODY KNEW EVERYBODY. EVERYONE FOLLOWED BASKETBALL."



Dot and Ken Bishop

THE GIFT OF GIVING BACK

› by Venita Jenkins

Darion Jeralds' passion for UNCW and the community is reflected in the work he does to help improve the lives of others.

Jeralds, the 2017 Distinguished Young Alumnus of the Year, has served as a volunteer youth basketball coach, a March of Dimes Ambassador Family, Communities in Schools volunteer and a Work on Wilmington project leader.

"GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY IS A PRIVILEGE"

"Giving back to the community is a privilege," said Jeralds, senior sourcing manager for GE Global Operations. "I enjoy the opportunity to sow a seed for the next generation and to let young people know that their dreams are attainable. At GE, we feel that it is important to be a part of the community that we live and work in."

Jeralds graduated cum laude from

UNCW as the Outstanding Graduate for Operations Management in 2010 and completed the MBA program in 2014. After graduation, he was hired as a supply chain leader for GE Hitachi Nuclear Energy Americas.

Jeralds shares his knowledge with UNCW students by participating in Business Week, hosted annually by the Cameron School of Business.

Being a part of the university's efforts to support the community is something Jeralds is proud of, he added. "Specific events like the Cape Fear Region Minority Enterprise Development Week have been great avenues for connecting local small and diverse businesses with opportunities and networks."

He is amazed by the significant

growth and changes to the campus and curriculum since graduating seven years ago.

"UNCW continues to reinvent itself and offer unique experiences for students and faculty," he said. "The future for UNCW is bright. I believe that we have only scratched the surface of what is possible for the university and student life. As the campus continues to grow and develop new innovative programs, UNCW will be recognized globally as a leader in the education space."



Dawn Brown '08, Randall Library's access operations coordinator, is currently serving a two-year term as chair of the UNC Staff Assembly. She is the first UNCW staff member to lead the assembly. **Gabriel Lugo**, past UNCW Faculty Senate president and associate professor of mathematics and statistics, was named chair-elect of the UNC Faculty Assembly in 2015. He is currently serving as chair. This marks the first time both roles have been held by representatives from UNCW.

"We demonstrate the strength of UNCW statewide as we represent the collective bodies of faculty and staff," said Brown.

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FIVE DECADES OF SEAHAWK PRIDE

› By Tricia Vance

To say that Jean Lawler '65 is a Seahawks fan would be a considerable understatement. Lawler and her husband, Eddie

Lawler '65, have been faithful UNCW boosters since the days when the basketball team played at Brogden Hall.

"I just love UNCW!" said Jean Lawler. The Lawlers have followed the team to several postseason tournaments. "When [former head coaches] Jerry Wainwright and Brad Brownell were here, I went to Dayton with them, to California with them and to Nashville." She and her husband also were in the audience in Charleston, S.C., in March 2017 when the Seahawks won the Colonial Athletic Association title for the second year in a row. It almost goes without saying that she and Eddie are season-ticket holders.

After Trask Coliseum opened in 1977, the Lawlers and a group of fellow UNCW fans provided the money to add air conditioning. In

**"LIVING HERE, I
JUST FEEL LIKE
YOU'VE GOT TO
GIVE BACK..."**

the early days of the Seahawk Club, she and the club director would fetch ice, decorate the tables and put out food for pregame receptions. Members also went door-to-door to encourage local residents to support the team. "We went through different neighborhoods knocking on doors, and we got the

Winter Park Optimists to be the ushers," she shared. Lawler was president of the Seahawk Club in 1995-96. She is proud of the growth of the UNCW fan base and the Seahawk Club, which now boasts over 2,000 members. "We're just doing everything we can to keep the momentum going."

Her enthusiastic involvement with UNCW athletics earned her the William J. Brooks Distinguished Service Award in 1999.

When she isn't selling advertising at Wilmington International Airport, Lawler can likely be found at a UNCW sporting event (especially baseball, basketball, softball and women's golf), attending one of any number of community functions, or being pulled

on water skis behind a motorboat on the Intracoastal Waterway. (She has been an avid water skier since she was seven years old.)

Community service is second nature to Lawler, whose energy and community spirit have made her a fixture in many local organizations. She has worked with a long list of organizations in the Cape Fear region. This includes 57 years of service with the North Carolina Azalea Festival committee, most recently as the festival's 2017 president. This year, the committee created the Jean A. Lawler Emeritus Program to honor distinguished volunteers.

"Living here, I just feel like you've got to give back," she said, "and I love Wilmington."



HISTORIC PRESERVATION

› By Venita Jenkins

UNCW has been a part of Jerry Parnell's life for decades and he, in turn, has spent years preserving the history of the Wilmington community for future generations.

He first visited campus in the mid-1960s when his uncle, James Parnell, started teaching in the biology department at Wilmington College. Parnell, who graduated from High Point College, moved to Wrightsville Beach in the early 1970s and met his wife Kathleen (Kathie) Corn '75, who was a student worker in Randall Library at the time.

"I hung around the library some then," he fondly recalled.

Parnell and Kathie left the Wilmington area once she graduated from UNCW, but they always hoped to return. He later earned a master's degree in library science from UNCG. Parnell hadn't planned to pursue a career in academia. His goal was to work in a public library, but the opportunity to be a part of strengthening UNCW's library, named in honor of former President William M. Randall, became his calling.

"A job in Randall Library came open at the time I was ready to move to a larger institution," he said. "UNCW has always

felt comfortable and inviting, and the university is in a wonderful location."

The job opening led to a nearly 23-year career at UNCW. Parnell recently retired as the manager of Randall Library's Special Collections. The Thomas Fanning Wood and the Wilbur Jones collections are among his favorites. The Wood Collection – the first one Parnell curated – includes the local physician's Civil War recollections, correspondence and genealogy. Jones inspired the special collections staff to establish an oral history program at UNCW, and he later donated World War II material to the library.

Parnell is also fond of the Kindred Spirits Notebooks, a collection of messages that have been placed in a mailbox on a remote part of Bird Island in Brunswick County. "There are a lot of messages of hope and of loss," he said. "People talked about the loss that they had, but they still had a positive

outlook no matter their circumstances."

As much as Parnell enjoyed preserving history, his memories of working with great colleagues hold a special place in this Seahawk's heart.

"One of my fondest memories would have to be the surprise 'grandfather shower' my friends and colleagues in the library gave me before the birth of my first grandchild," he said. "That really took me by surprise and was a lot of fun."

Parnell is proud to be a part of UNCW's legacy of service to students, faculty, staff and the community.

"We are still a young institution. From those days on Market Street teaching WWII veterans to the Ph.D. programs of today, this school has made impressive strides," he said. "The next 70 years should be just as impressive."

**"UNCW HAS
ALWAYS FELT
COMFORTABLE
AND INVITING."**





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B O O K E X C E R P T

In honor of the university's 70th anniversary, UNCW published a commemorative book that presents a selection of pivotal moments and special memories that have shaped the vision, values and growth of Wilmington College and UNCW through the years.

Progress and Prosperity for Wilmington's "Seed of Higher Education"

On March 31, 1960, Wilmington College students waited with rapt enthusiasm as the groundbreaking ceremonies for their new campus on N.C. Highway 132 drew near. For the vast majority of Wilmingtonians, the prospect of establishing a four-year university was one step closer to reality. As the college's newspaper *The Seahawk* proclaimed, "The confidence that many friends of Wilmington College have had for the 13-year old institution must be greatly strengthened...now the turning of a spadeful of dirt seems to justify the faith we have had that the citizens of this area have wanted and will support Wilmington College."

By 1960, nearly a quarter century had passed since Dr. John Hoggard first began to advocate for a college in Wilmington. The Great Depression had initially delayed funding, but World War II and the GI Bill had provided both the impetus and the finances to realize Hoggard's dream. During the 1940s and 1950s, the small college had grown, received accreditation, and become an integral part of North Carolina's community college system. As Wilmington College entered the 1960s, it was poised for even greater growth and expansion.

When April 1 finally arrived, hundreds of faculty, alumni, and supporters came to witness the new

beginning. At 10 a.m., Wilmington College students, eager to join them, climbed on buses that waited in front of the Isaac Bear Building to take them to their new campus in the pine forest... President William Randall gave a brief history of the college, and as the morning sun warmed the audience, Governor Luther Hodges delivered an address honoring the event and placing the school's origins into the broader context of North Carolina's progress and prosperity. He used a gold-painted shovel for the ceremonial turning of the first earth... New Hanover Board of Education member Emsley Laney noted that this was a "momentous occasion for a College" that served as an "important and integral factor in the educational and cultural life of our community and possesses a potential that cannot be measured or even imagined today."

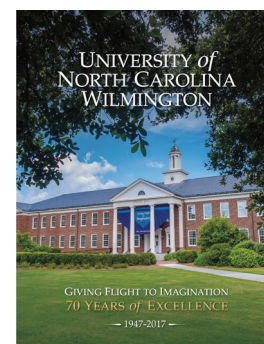
Celebration came with great responsibility, as recognized by Wilmington College students. *The Seahawk* editor wrote when the campus opened, "The seed is planted, and with proper care and attention, growth will occur. Wilmington College, founded in 1947, is the seed of higher education in this city. We, its students, have been entrusted with its development."

It was a statement that would prove prescient because over the next 65 years, students would play an influential role in shaping the school's future. The students, however, were guided by committed faculty, staff, alumni, trustees, presidents and chancellors,

who over time worked tirelessly to nurture the small college into a nationally ranked research institution. Indeed, UNCW's history is one of partnerships between its founders, leaders, faculty, staff and students. It is a story about philanthropic donors who have given time and money, and also of an entire community of supporters who voted time and again to tax themselves and through those taxes to make their own contribution to the university. Finally, UNCW's past speaks to the democratization of education in the United States since World War II. This process that began with the GI Bill grew into a community college, and ultimately transitioned into a university dedicated to providing affordable and quality education and community service.

*Excerpted from
Giving Flight to
Imagination: 70
Years of Excellence,
by Thomas R. Hart.
Purchase your
copy at the UNCW
bookstore or at uncw.edu/70thbook.*

**"THE SEED
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GROWTH WILL
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Thank you, Wilmington!

Whether you have gotten an education with us, cheered on our student-athletes, attended arts events, participated in fundraising efforts, or hired a UNCW graduate, you have been a part of our success. Many of you are past or present employees, whose support and commitment have inspired nearly 80,000 students along the way.

We are grateful to our community partners for your collaboration; together we have improved the quality of life for our citizens and ensured Wilmington and the southeast region will continue to grow economically and culturally.

We've come a long way in our first 70 years, and we couldn't have done it without you.

Go Seahawks!



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